

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
Protecting Miners' Safety and Health Since 1978

SAFETY ALERT
Airlock Doors

Air lock doors are essential ventilation controls but they can also create fall and pinch point hazards if they are not installed, maintained and used correctly. Since June 27, 2015, four serious accidents involving air lock doors have resulted in two fatalities and two serious injuries. A miner was fatally injured when he was attempting to close a set of air lock doors and the doors became dislodged and fell, trapping the miner. The second fatality occurred when a locomotive moved unexpectedly through a closed airlock door forcing the door which was hinged along the roof to open the wrong way resulting in blunt force trauma to the locomotive operator. Another miner received a fracture to his vertebra when he was closing an air lock door and the door came off the hinges and fell on him. The fourth miner was closing an air lock door when the door closed too fast, pinching the miner between the door he was closing and the door assembly.



BEST PRACTICES

- Pre-fabricated or manufactured doors should be properly installed and maintained.
- Door frames should be securely mounted.
- Train employees in proper installation procedures.
- When closing doors, avoid allowing them to slam shut.
- Do not use mobile equipment to open doors that are designed to be opened by hand.
- Do not work in pinch points where inadvertent movement could cause injury.
- Maintain door clearances by not allowing road debris to build up and hamper proper operation.
- Install a pressure relief door or window in each air lock door to make it easier to open and close them.



REMEMBER:
Safety depends upon what you
DO or DON'T DO.